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very lowest of them—that of shirt making. They undertook it as a forlorn hope, but what has been the result? To-day they could make shirts of all descriptions, and sell them against the sweaters in every part of England and Scotland. Not a shirt was made out of their manufactory. They were made in comfortable work rooms, under sanitary conditions, the wages were 20 per cent. higher than those paid by the ordinary manufacturer, and in addition the work people got a share of the profits. They could sell their shirts to the Newcastle branch of the English Wholesale Society, who sent them to the retail societies, who sold them to the wearers, and they all shared in the profit. Don't tell the members of the Scottish Board that sweating is necessary."

EDWARD W. BEMIS.

Report of the Twenty-fifth Annual Trades Union Congress of Great Britain, held at Glasgow September 5–10, 1892, pp. 80. Manchester Coöperative Printing Society, Limited.

Report of Proceedings of the Twelfth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, held at Philadelphia, December 12–17, 1892. Concord Coöperative Printing Co., Limited, New York.

At the Twenty-fifth Annual Trades Union Congress of Great Britain 495 delegates were present, representing 418 trades and 1,219,934 different members. The largest number of trades ever before represented was probably two years ago, at Liverpool, when there were 311, although, owing, it is said, to a decline in the numbers of some of the newer unions of unskilled labor, because of trade depression, the number of members represented in 1892 was about 80,000 less than in 1891. The growth has been great, in numbers and influence, since 139 delegates, representing 530,000 members, met in Glasgow ten years ago.

Nothing is more significant in recent economic history, in the opinion of the writer, than the drift toward a demand for greatly increased state activity. Such demand has now conquered the English trades unions, which have, until lately, been considered the strictest adherents to individual effort and self-help. There appears no loss of interest in trades unions, but a determination to use them for securing industrial changes at the ballot-box.

The congress voted, 188 to 47, for seizure by the government of all

mine royalties, and voted later for nationalization of mines and municipalization of minerals, as also for public artizans' lodgings where necessary. Although nationalization of all land and capital was not carried, the vote for it was 128, as contrasted with 8 three years ago.

The vote was 285 to 183 for a law securing eight hours a day of labor and forty-eight a week to all trades which did not petition against it, the so-called trade-exemption idea, and that for another law closing all stores at a certain hour. An international congress was ordered for May 1, 1893, to consider the eight-hour question.

It was also voted to work for the use of a trades union label on union-made goods, and a stamp on all goods giving the name of the maker and place of manufacture.

More factory inspectors, and those practically acquainted with trade conditions, instead of university men, as it seems is common now, were favored, as also the abolition of all sub-contracting on government contracts, and no public contracts at all, save on trades-union wages and rules, and on the eight-hour day.

The inspection of all boilers and shipping, and licensing of all employés about them, were endorsed.

To prepare the way for these sweeping changes, a wider suffrage, pay of all members of parliament and independent labor representatives therein, were approved.

Compulsory arbitration, restriction of immigration and complete socialization of land and capital were about the only suggestions for increased sanitary activity that were not adopted unanimously or by large majorities.

In marked contrast with the great demands for state activity by the English trades unionists is the action of the twentieth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor in Philadelphia in December last. The most advanced measure of the kind, and that not at all extreme, that was adopted, was in favor of government ownership of telegraphs and telephones, while similar ownership of "railroads and transportation" was rejected by a vote of very nearly three to one.

Compulsory education, better enforcement of factory and immigration laws, protection of trades-union labels by law, freedom to all to use patents subject to a fixed royalty or reward to the inventor and the substitution of day labor on public account for the contract system in government work were the only sanitary demands of the convention.

Voluntary was preferred to compulsory arbitration because of the

lack as yet of sufficient organization and discipline among the workers.

Naturally the use of the militia at Homestead and Buffalo, not simply to prevent injury to person and property, but to prevent all intercourse by the strikers with the non-union men, or an opportunity for a committee to come before the new men and attempt to dissuade them from taking the places of the strikers, led to much discussion, and the following resolutions and amendment were unanimously passed: "First, they [the state legislatures] shall create a Board of Commissioners, to be elected by the people, consisting of as many members as there are congressional districts in the state. Each member shall be elected by the congressional district in which he resides. The said Board of Commissioners, after investigation of the difficulties, shall, in conjunction with the Governor, have sole power to call out the militia in the case of labor difficulties or strifes. Or, second, in cases of labor difficulties, it shall be unlawful for the Governor to call out the militia for the suppression of the same except upon a petition signed by at least one-fourth of the qualified voters of the county wherein the trouble may exist." If neither of these things could be obtained, the trades unions should "refuse, under any circumstances, to permit any member to enlist in the national guard of any state, and that the members now enlisted be requested to withdraw as soon as they can lawfully do so."

An amendment was adopted as follows:

"That the force necessary to the proper constitutional use of the militia lies in labor representation in the legislative and administrative departments of the respective states. Hence, we urge the working classes to see to it that members and friends of the working classes, and not the agents of monopoly, shall command the military and other departments of our state and national governments."

It was voted to accumulate money to assist one selected trade after another to secure the eight-hour day. Thirteen boycotts were indorsed, whereas hardly any were voted by name in the English Congress; although in both congresses there was full indorsement of wage-earners buying only union-made goods, or at least those whose conditions of manufacture, known by a label, or the name of the maker, are recognized as favorable to the worker.

A symptom of the growing internationalism of labor was exhibited in the report of a donation of \$500 last year by the Federation of

Labor to assist the German miners in their effort, as yet unsuccessful, for a nine-hour day.

Not all the national and international trades unions, embracing fully 600,000 members, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, seem to have been represented among the eighty-nine delegates, but a large majority were. The next convention will be held in Chicago in December, 1893.

E. W. B.